Submission to Hearing Commissioners

Awa Koura Mining Application — Luggate

Property: 71 Pukerangi Drive

Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak.

I live at 71 Pukerangi Drive, and I wish to formally raise my concerns about the proposed mining resource consent

I am not opposed to responsible development or to mining in principle.

In fact, we have granted consent to Kim to subdivide this property

Before outlining those concerns, I would like to establish my background and experience.

I have more than 40 years of experience owning and operating quarries, gold mines, significant coal mines and concrete plants throughout the South Island. In particular, I owned and operated floating gold dredges between 1985 and 2000.

I have a practical understanding of how these operations work, the machinery involved, and the challenges of controlling noise and dust in real operating conditions.

I am concerned about the effects of noise, dust and visual intrusion on my home, and I want to ensure that these effects are properly assessed and controlled before consent is considered

I recognise that mining applications must be assessed fairly.

However, the potential impacts on neighbouring residents need to be considered in practical terms, not simply through theoretical assessments or assurances about how an operation is intended to work.

1. Noise

My primary concern is the potential for ongoing and intrusive noise from the proposed operation

A noise assessment based on limited testing or ideal operating conditions will not accurately reflect the experience of nearby residents over the life of the operation.

The question is whether the operation, as a whole, will create unreasonable or intrusive noise at my property and other nearby homes.

Operators of the machinery really control the noise immitted

1. **They are now operating in sound suppressed cabins with sound systems**
2. **An operator will be oblivious of the noise that is being created**
3. **In my view,If they are having a bad day, all controls will not matter**

2. Dust and Air Quality

My second major concern is dust.

Dust suppression measures can be effective when properly implemented, but they require continuous management. A water cart could be inadequate

The effects of dust should be assessed based on actual operating conditions, including dry weather, prevailing winds and the cumulative effect of all activities occurring on the site.

Silica dust exposure is a significant and well documented occupational hazard in gold mining operations and downstream residents will have exposure to that .

Council Dust reviewer commented that this effects will be “ less than minor”

Dust on weekends and public holidays will require machinery to be operated to mitigate

A great case study would have been on Monday when you could not stand upright in the Luggate valley with gale winds

3. Visual Effects and Amenity

The proposed operation will modify the visual character and amenity of the surrounding area.

Visual mitigation should be established before rather than being left until the site has already become visually intrusive.

5. Monitoring, Enforcement and Conditions

If a consent is being considered

My final concern is whether any conditions imposed will be sufficiently clear, measurable and enforceable.

It is important that the consent does not rely solely on general statements that the operator will act responsibly.

Conditions should specify what must be done, how compliance will be measured, who will undertake monitoring, and what will happen if limits are exceeded.

Conclusion

I respectfully urge the Commissioners to give proper weight to a practical assessment of these effects and to consider the cumulative impact they may have on neighbouring residents, our homes and our quality of life.

We should not have to rely on theoretical predictions or assurances that problems will be managed.

Any conditions must provide genuine, practical protection for neighbouring residents if the operation is actually underway.

Thank you for your time and for considering my submission.